

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 309120
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY S/ TGMARTIN
APPROVED BY S/S-O TGMARTIN
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O 291019Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 309120

FOR ASST. SEC. ATHERTON FROM OPERATIONS CENTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PORTIONS OF PRESIDENT'S DEC. 28
TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH NBC, ABC, CBS, AND PBS
REPORTERS

REF: CAIRO 23144 (NOTAL)

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SECURE BORDERS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REAL PEACE, THE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO BE THERE AND DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

WE ARE IN A ROLE OF SUPPORTER. WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS. WE TRY TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES TO GIVE ADVICE AND COUNSEL WHEN WE ARE REQUESTED TO DO IT. THIS IS A BETTER ROLE FOR US. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE BEEN IN THE UNENVIABLE POSITION AND SOMETIMES UNPLEASANT POSITION, SOMETIMES NONPRODUCTIVE POSITION AS MEDIATOR AMONG PARTIES WHO WOULDN'T EVEN SPEAK TO EACH OTHER. SO I THINK THAT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE LAST MONTH AND A HALF HAS BEEN REMARKABLE AND HAS BEEN MUCH GREATER THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED. AND I KNOW SADAT AND BEGIN WELL AND PERSONALLY AND FAVORABLY.

IF ANY TWO LEADERS ON EARTH HAVE THE STRENGTH AND THE DETERMINATION AND THE COURAGE TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE MOST DIFFICULT REGION THAT I HAVE EVER KNOWN, IT IS PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT. THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO BE DISCOURAGED ABOUT IT. WE WILL HELP UNCLASSIFIED

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IN EVERY WAY WE CAN TO LET THEIR PROGRESS BE FRUITFUL. I THINK THAT PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN COULD HAVE REACHED A FAIRLY QUICK SOLUTION OF JUST THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PROBLEM IN THE SINAI REGION. BUT THIS IS NOT WHAT THEY WANT.

THEY BOTH WANT TO RESOLVE THE OTHER QUESTIONS, WHAT IS REAL PEACE, WILL ISRAEL BE RECOGNIZED AS A PERMANENT NEIGHBOR TO THE COUNTRIES THAT SURROUND THEM. CAN THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THE WEST BANK, THE GAZA STRIP BE ADDRESSED SUCCESSFULLY. KNOWING HOW DIFFICULT THESE QUESTIONS ARE, I HAVE NOTHING BUT CONGRATULATIONS FOR THEM ON WHAT THEY HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR.

QUESTION: YOU ARE GOING TO SEE KING HUSSEIN IN JORDAN AND TEHRAN. PRESIDENT SADAT SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT WAS BROADCAST ON PUBLIC TELEVISION LAST NIGHT THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS FULLY BEHIND HIS EFFORTS IN PUBLIC; UNTIL NOW, KING HUSSEIN'S OPINION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY MYSTERIOUS. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD MAKE YOU AGREE WITH MR. SADAT AND ARE YOU GOING TO DISCUSS THAT WITH KING HUSSEIN AND URGE HIM TO SUPPORT THE SADAT INITIATIVE WHEN YOU SEE HIM?

THE PRESIDENT: I DON'T INTEND TO PUT ANY PRESSURE ON KING HUSSEIN, I COULDN'T IF I WANTED TO, TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT AS A PARTNER.

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WOULD YOU, IN LIGHT OF THE DEVELOPMENT, NOW CLARIFY YOUR
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PRESIDENT SADAT SO FAR IS INSISTING THAT THE SO-CALLED PALESTINIAN ENTITY BE AN INDEPENDENT NATION. MY OWN PREFERENCE IS THAT THEY NOT BE AN INDEPENDENT NATION BUT BE TIED IN SOME WAY WITH THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES, MAKING A CHOICE, FOR INSTANCE, BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN.

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BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY REAL CHOICE. I HAVE EXPRESSED AN OPINION, BUT IF ISRAEL SHOULD NEGOTIATE WITH THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES A DIFFERENT SOLUTION, WE WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT IT.

BUT MY OWN PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT PERMANENT PEACE CAN BEST BE MAINTAINED IF THERE IS NOT A FAIRLY RADICAL, NEW INDEPENDENT NATION IN THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN AREA.

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HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH.

THE PRESIDENT: I HAVE EXPRESSED THIS OPINION TO PRESIDENT ASSAD, TO KING HUSSEIN, TO PRESIDENT SADAT, TO CROWN PRINCE FAHAD, AND ALSO TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, AND PRIVATELY, AND OF COURSE THEY HAVE HEARD MY STATEMENTS PUBLICLY.

OUR PREFERENCE IS NOT TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT NATION THERE, BUT WE ARE PERFECTLY WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY REASONABLE SOLUTION THAT THE PARTIES THEMSELVES MIGHT EVOLVE.

QUESTION: IF I COULD JUST GET BACK TO THE QUESTION I ASKED YOU, I TAKE IT THAT YOU WOULD NOT PASS JUDGEMENT IN PUBLIC AT LEAST AT THIS POINT ON WHETHER THE ISRAELIS HAD BEEN FLEXIBLE ENOUGH IN THE NEGOTIATING SO FAR. DO YOU THINK THAT THE POSITION THAT THEY PUT FORWARD--MR. BEGIN SAID TODAY THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE ISRAELI TROOPS ON THE WEST BANK AND THAT ALL WHO WANTED PEACE WILL HAVE TO KNOW THAT. IS THAT A REALISTIC NEGOTIATING POSITION?

THE PRESIDENT: YES IT CERTAINLY IS A REALISTIC NEGOTIATING POSITION.

QUESTION: WOULD SADAT EVER ACCEPT THAT?

THE PRESIDENT: I DON'T KNOW. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF FLEXIBILITY THERE; THE NUMBER OF MILITARY OUTPOSTS; THE LENGTH OF TIME WHEN THIS INTERIM SOLUTION MIGHT BE IN EFFECT. I THINK PRIME MINISTER BEGIN SAID IT WOULD BE REASSESSED AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS.

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BUT THE LENGTH OF TIME WHEN THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD BE IN EFFECT WOULD BE NEGOTIABLE AND THE EXACT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEW SELF-RULE GOVERNMENT AS FAR AS ITS AUTONOMY IS CONCERNED, ITS DEPENDENCE OR SUBSERVIENCE TO THE JORDANIANS OR ISRAELIS, ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED. I THINK THERE IS ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY AT THIS POINT.

QUESTION: COULD I JUST ASK ONE-FOLLOW-UP ON-THAT ? HAS EITHER EGYPT OR ISRAEL, OR BOTH, ASKED THE UNITED STATES FORMALLY YET TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES FOR ANY AGREEMENT THAT IS MADE?

THE PRESIDENT: IN MY PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH SOME OF THEM, THEY HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME THAT IF A GUARANTEE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN OURSELVES AND ISRAEL SHOULD BE WORKED OUT,

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WE GO FROM THERE TO IRAN, VERY CLOSE MILITARY ALLY OF OURS,
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AND THEN WE GO TO INDIA, THE BIGGEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD,
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THEY ARE ALMOST SELF-SUFFICIENT NOW. THEY HAVE FOOD
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WE COME BACK FROM THERE TO SAUDI ARABIA, OUR MAJOR SUPPLIER
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VANCE

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APPROVED BY: SSM:CWKONTOS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE309120
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/ TGMARTIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780001-0536
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712111/baaaeuuu.tel
Line Count: 598
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28f75dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 119995
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST PORTIONS OF PRESIDENT'S DEC. 28
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: CAIRO TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28f75dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009